

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 6, 8, 22, 26, 28 and 41-44 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 6, 8, 22, 26 and 28 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 6, 8, 22, 26, 28 and 41-44 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Nakajima (JP 9-236763) in view of Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,133,566) and Iwasa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,144,685, herein "Iwasa"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant thanks Examiner Pham for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicant's representative on January 5, 2004. During the interview, differences between the claimed invention and the applied art, and the rejections noted in the outstanding Office Action, were discussed. Amendments as submitted herein were also discussed during the interview. The Examiner agreed that the amended claims distinguished over the art of record. Arguments presented during the interview are reiterated below.

Amended Claim 2 is directed to an information recording multibeam light source that includes means for holding the semiconductor laser array and the means for collimating. The means for holding includes a through-hole through which the semiconductor laser array is inserted and secured, and an interfitting rod portion protruding from the means for holding and a flange protruding from an edge of a portion of the interfitting rod portion for securing the means for collimating such that an optical axis of the means for collimating substantially coincides with a midpoint between the plurality of light emitting points.

Amended independent Claims 6, 22 and 26 include similar features regarding the through-hole, the interfitting rod portion and the flange.

In a non-limiting example, Figures 3 and 8A illustrate a means for holding 2 including a through-hole 2c through which the semiconductor laser array is inserted and secured, and an interfitting rod portion 2a protruding from the means for holding 2 and a flange 2b protruding from an edge of a portion of the interfitting rod portion 2a for securing the means for collimating 5 such that an optical axis of the means for collimating 5 substantially coincides with a midpoint between the plurality of light emitting points 1a₁-1a₄.

According to the claimed invention, by bringing the optical axis of the collimator lens 5 to approximately the center of a through-hole 2c formed in the interfitting rod portion 2a of the holder 2, the optical axis of the collimator lens 5 is thus adjusted to the center of the light emitting points 1a₁-1a₄ (i.e., the middle of the points 1a₂ and 1a₃) (see also the specification at page 10, lines 20-23).

Nakajima, Yamaguchi and Iwasa do not teach or suggest a means for holding that includes a through-hole through which a semiconductor laser array is inserted and secured, and an interfitting rod portion protruding from the means for holding and a flange protruding from an edge of a portion of the interfitting rod portion for securing a means for collimating such that an optical axis of the means for collimating substantially coincides with a midpoint between a plurality of light emitting points. The outstanding Office Action at page 5, lines 7-15, indicates that Nakajima discloses flanges (25a and 25b) for securing the respective collimator lenses (12 and 13). Applicant respectfully submits that Nakajima merely discloses a pair of flanges (25a and 25b) and fails to teach or suggest an interfitting rod portion and a portion protruding from an edge of a portion of either of the pair of flanges (25a and 25b) (figure 3). Yamaguchi fails to teach or suggest a holding means that includes a through-hole, an interfitting rod portion and a flange. Instead, Yamaguchi discloses collimator lenses (3₁-3_m) that are directly inserted into fixing holes 26 formed on a base body 24 (figures 4 and 7; and column 10, lines 36-52). Similarly, Iwasa also fails to teach or suggest a holding means

that includes a through-hole, an interfitting rod portion and a flange. In fact, Yamaguchi and Iwasa do not even mention an interfitting rod portion or a flange at all.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this rejection be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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